

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 16, with the following amended paragraph:

a' A gateway server often includes hardware and software for connecting LANs to the Internet [[Internet]]. Similar to network servers, gateway servers need to be correctly configured in order to have proper functioning of the LAN vis-à-vis the Internet. The necessary information for configuring a gateway server is often contained in a configuration file for the gateway server. Since the gateway server acts as an interface between the LAN and the Internet, it is imperative that these gateway servers are properly monitored and managed. Illustrative of the importance of gateway servers, if a gateway server malfunctions, then it is possible that the entire LAN may be denied access to the Internet or permit unauthorized access to the gateway server and/or LAN. Moreover, since the gateway server is the LAN's connection to the "outside world," if a particular gateway server is compromised, then individual systems on the LAN connected to the gateway server are susceptible to tampering. Likewise, in wide area networks (WAN) having multiple gateway servers, a compromise of one gateway server may risk compromise of other gateways in the WAN.